January, 1978

GREETINGS! Thanks to the help of the University of North Dakota Chess Club (which provided the paper and postage) and the Central Dakota Chess Club (which provided the USCF labels), you are receiving the third newsletter of the season. That's quite an accomplishment, considering none were published last year. This one is going to the 185 current North Dakota USCF members, plus a few of our Minnesota friends. Wondering where NDCA players live? Here's how the latest list breaks down in terms of towns with two or more USCF memberships: Fargo--46, Minot--31, Bismarck--21, Grand Forks--20, Mandan--8, Wahpeton--6, Killdeer--5, Carpio--5, Dickinson--4, Valley City--3, Velva--3, Emerado--3, Belcourt--3, Rugby--2, Williston--2. Numerous cities have one member each. Why not try to get at least one more person in your community enrolled in USCF? North Dakota was third in the nation in membership gain in the last CL&R. Unfortunately, we've dropped by ten members since compilation of that list. Let's get with it (see President Ron's message). We can't have rated tournaments without USCF members! The North Dakota Open and the Bison Open were both 100-player tournaments this season, but that was thanks to out-of-state players. We need more North Dakotans in USCF, and thus in NDCA!!!!!

THE NORTH DAKOTA SCHOLASTIC? The senior and junior high school tournament set for December was canceled at the last minute because of adverse weather that left most of the state blanketed in a sheet of ice. Whether there will be a scholastic this season is now in the hands of Ron Schauer, your president. One possibility is to declare the highest scoring high school and junior high school players in the North Dakota Closed as this year's champions. The five percent tournament "tax" for the scholarship fund is still being solicited from NDCA organizers. The scholastic is sure to be discussed, among other matters, at the NDCA semiannual meeting in Bismarck during the Closed.

MINOT WINTER FEST. Feb. 4-5 at the Parker Hotel in Minot. Five rounds, Swiss System. 50/2. Entry fees: $10, $7 students. Prizes: $60, $40, $20 and class prizes. Trophies. Registration from 8 to 9 a.m. Rounds 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Sunday. Advance entry to Marvin Johnson, Box 751, Minot, ND 58601.

UND SIOUX OCTOS. March 5 (Sunday) at the UND Student Center, Grand Forks. Three rounds, Swiss System, in eight-person sections formed by rating. 30/1. Entry fee: $5. Prizes: $25 first, $10 second in each section. Registration ends at 10 a.m. Advance entries to Dave Vorland, 2212 10th Ave. N., Grand Forks, ND 58201.

NORTH DAKOTA CLOSED. April 22-23 at the Prince Hotel in Bismarck. Five rounds, Swiss System, open to North Dakota residents only. Entry fees: $13, $10 to juniors. New members: USCF + entry fee--$23, $13 juniors. All entries $3 more at door. Prizes: $100, $50, plus $275 in class prizes based on entries. Trophies. Registration 8 to 9:30 a.m. Rounds 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Sunday. NDCA meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday. Special room rates at the Prince--$14 for two persons, $18 for four persons. Advance entries to Central Dakota Chess Club, Box 714, Mandan, ND 58554.

A MESSAGE FROM NDCA'S PRESIDENT. Dear fellow chess players:

Please pass the word on about the North Dakota Closed, April 22, 23 in Bismarck at the Prince Hotel. It should appear in Chess Life and everyone should get a flyer, but spread the word to members and potential members. There will be an NDCA meeting, and it should be the most important we've had in many years in the NDCA. To be voted on will be (1) Dues?? (2) A chess publication and how to fund it? (3) Grand Prix point system, (4) A possible North Dakota rating system. Plus there will be a look at the revised NDCA constitution, the financial report, and a chance to confront your NDCA officers. Please post this letter at your club rooms, show it around, talk it up with others, get off your squares and advance some publicity for the NDCA.

Being elected President of the NDCA is like lying down between a rock and a hard place. But the NDCA I hope is not just a President or its officers, it is the total sum of all its members and their efforts. If your efforts are small, the NDCA is also small. Your help is what the NDCA needs. Few people profit from Chess--95% of us play and help for the love of the Game. Our reward is seeing more players enjoy the game and its associated people.

I need you to give your time. Some of you are deeply involved, but some of you can give just a little of your time. If you can't give time, we are not above accepting donations to cover mailings and other expenses. But more than money, I ask YOUR TIME and YOUR TOURNAMENT PLAY. What has Chess done for you? What have you done for the NDCA chess movement?

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